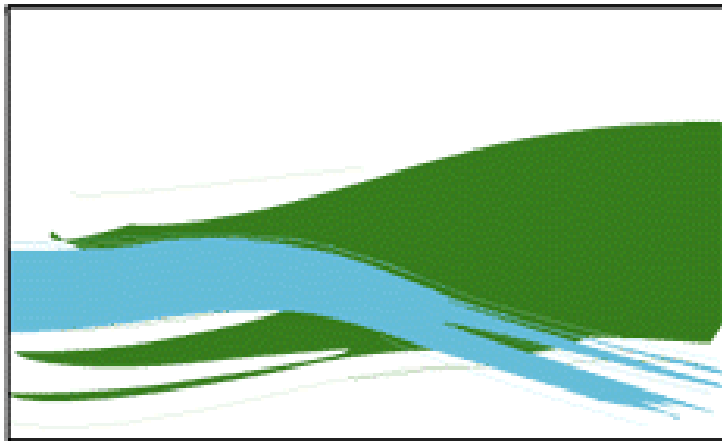



# M·N·R·G

Midwest Natural Resources Group



Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
Bloomington, Minnesota  
November 28-29, 2007  
Winter Meeting

2020 Vision in the Midwest

An abstract graphic featuring a light blue river flowing from the left towards the right, with green hills in the background and foreground. The text "2020 Vision in the Midwest" is centered over the river.

## *2020 Vision in the Midwest*

## Welcome from the Meeting Chair

Welcome to the winter meeting of the Midwest Natural Resources Group. MNRG was founded ten years ago to advance coordination, cooperation, relations and effectiveness among the various federal agencies having natural resource responsibilities in the Midwest. We are marking our first decade by looking ahead to the next decade, pausing at this winter meeting to listen to experts who are helping us look at coming changes in the political, social, economic and environmental landscapes. *"2020 Vision in the Midwest"* is our opportunity to better position ourselves for leadership and stewardship in the years ahead.

I am grateful to the MNRG leaders and members who have helped our organization strengthen over the years and focus on issues important for all of us. As we set aside our winter meeting to look ahead, I also look back on our formative years with appreciation for the founders and ensuing MNRG leaders and participants who sustain our network.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to host this meeting in the Twin Cities, home of our Midwest Regional Office. Please enjoy the outstanding speakers who fill our busy agenda, and also enjoy our hospitality and the visitor center at our Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Welcome!

Sincerely,

Robyn Thorson

# Agenda

## Wednesday, November 28, 2007

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.     **Registration**
- 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.     **Welcome:** Robyn Thorson (FWS) MNRG Chair and  
BG Robert Crear (COE) MNRG Vice Chair  
**Changes Ahead:** Larry Selzer, President and CEO, The Conservation Fund
- 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.     **Keynote Address: Demographic Changes in the Public We Serve:  
“Gens, Trends and Friends – Change in Magnitude and Composition  
of Population”**  
Dr. Emilyn Sheffield, Chair, Department of Recreation Administration,  
California State University at Chico
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.     **Break**
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.     **Keynote Address (continued)**
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.     **Changes in Government: Public Service**  
Tom Gillaspay, State Demographer, Minnesota Department of Administration
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.     **Changes in Legacy: Connecting People with Nature**  
Dr. Martha Farrell Erickson, Center for Early Education & Development;  
Director, Harris Programs, University of Minnesota;  
Co-Chair, President's Initiative on Children, Youth, & Families
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.     **Catered Lunch at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge**
- 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.     **Changes in Natural Resources**
  - **Climate:** Dr. Eric DeWeaver  
Center for Climatic Research, University of Wisconsin
  - **Water Resources:** Dr. Jonathan Higgins  
The Nature Conservancy – Great Lakes Office
  - **Ecological:** Dr. Brian Palik  
USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.     **Break**
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.     **Healthy Waters – Strong Economy**  
John Austin, Brookings Institution

# Agenda

## Thursday, November 29, 2007

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.     **Senior Executives breakfast with Sand County Foundation**  
Holiday Inn Select, Harvest Café Restaurant (table reserved)
- **Discussion:** Sand County Foundation Cooperative Leadership Proposal
  - **Decision:** Terrestrial Invasive Species Committee
  - **Update:** Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership
  - **Announcement:** Sustainability Summit
- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.     **Planning and Communications Committees Working Breakfast**  
Holiday Inn Select, Harvest Café Restaurant
- Prepare for Setting the Stage for the Future Session
- 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.     **Non-Federal Panel: Challenging “The Feds” in the Years Ahead**  
**Panel Members:**
- Jim Zorn, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
  - David Ullrich, Great Lakes Cities
  - Dave Nomsen, Pheasants Forever
  - Laurie Martinson, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota DNR
  - Gretchen Bonfert, McKnight Foundation
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.     **Break**
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.     **MNRG: What’s Ahead?**
- Major issues or concerns
  - Priorities and method to move forward  
(Including identification of opportunities and barriers)
  - Concluding remarks

# Biographies

## **Lawrence A. Selzer**

### **President & CEO, The Conservation Fund**

Larry Selzer is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Conservation Fund, a national nonprofit organization headquartered in metropolitan Washington, D.C. The Conservation Fund protects the nation's legacy of land and water resources in partnership with other nonprofit organizations, public agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals. Through land acquisition, community initiatives, and leadership development, The Fund and its partners demonstrate sustainable conservation solutions emphasizing the integration of economic and environmental goals. The Fund has protected more than 5.9 million acres since 1985. Selzer served as Chairman of the Sustainable Forestry Board and currently is on the Board of Directors of the Wildlife Habitat Council and the American Bird Conservancy.

Selzer holds a master's in business administration from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies from Wesleyan University.

## **Emilyn Sheffield**

### **Professor, Department of Recreation and Parks Management California State University at Chico**

Emilyn Sheffield is the immediate past Chairperson of the Department of Recreation and Parks Management at California State University Chico, one of the largest recreation programs in the United States. She is also the academic advisor for the minor in Tourism at CSU, Chico. Since coming to Chico in 1989, Sheffield has been active in tourism development and planning throughout California and the western United States. For over 20 years, she has worked with federal, state and local public land partners to increase support for public lands. As the Director of the Tourism and Communication Design Partnership, she directs a wide-ranging program of applied research, strategic planning, and cooperative marketing projects. Sheffield has extensive strategic market planning experience with local, county, and regional destination marketing organizations, as well as the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Sheffield is a member of the California Roundtable for Recreation, Parks and Tourism, a public-private partnership of resource agencies, tourism organizations, environmental entities, equipment manufacturers and user groups who work to ensure sustainable outdoor recreation for California. She is also the President of the Interpretation Association of the West, a nonprofit organization devoted to increasing stewardship opportunities for visitors to California's national forests. Prior to joining CSU, Chico faculty in 1989, Sheffield worked as a statewide recreation and tourism development consultant for the Extension Service in Missouri. Sheffield completed her Ph.D. at the University of Southern California.

# Biographies

## **Tom Gillaspy**

### **State Demographer, Minnesota Department of Administration**

Tom Gillaspy has served as the Minnesota State Demographer since 1979. During his tenure, he has been involved with a wide-ranging set of issues, applying an understanding of demographic trends in such areas as the state's economy, health care for an aging population, education, welfare reform, rural population change, labor shortages, immigration, housing, government spending, and the aging state workforce.

Prior to moving to Minnesota, Gillaspy was a demographer at the Andrus Gerontology Center, University of Southern California. He received his doctorate in economics from the Pennsylvania State University, specializing in economic demography. He also holds a master's degree in agricultural economics. Born and raised in Texas, Gillaspy received his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Texas at Austin.

## **Martha Farrell Erickson, Ph.D.**

### **Center for Early Education & Development; Director, Harris Programs, University of Minnesota; Co-Chair, President's Initiative on Children, Youth & Families**

Martha Farrell Erickson, Ph.D., Secretary of the Children & Nature Network, is a Senior Fellow and professor at the University of Minnesota, where she has been a long-time leader in linking research, practice, and policy to promote the health and well-being of children. As the founding director (1991 – 2003) of the U of M's ground-breaking Children, Youth & Family Consortium, Erickson worked at the state and national levels to unite parents, educators, policymakers, and other concerned citizens around critical issues facing children and families. In that role, she was a key leader of Vice President Al Gore's Family Re-Union Initiative. Erickson has been honored for her outstanding leadership and contributions to psychology, and was named the Minnesota Psychological Association's Distinguished Scholar for 2007.

Erickson currently directs the University of Minnesota's Irving B. Harris Training Programs, which provide advanced education for a broad range of professionals who work with young children and families. She also co-chairs the University's President's Initiative on Children, Youth & Families. Erickson also writes a weekly syndicated parenting column, appears regularly on Twin Cities television, and hosts a weekly two-hour radio show, "Good Enough Moms," with her daughter.

Erickson is passionate about the role of nature in children's development and takes special delight in helping her three young grandchildren discover the wonders of the natural world. As a leader in the Children & Nature Network, she is eager not only to help spur a movement to reunite children with nature, but also to promote more rigorous, extensive research on this critical topic in human development.

# Biographies

## **Eric T. DeWeaver**

**Assistant Professor, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences/  
Center for Climatic Research, University of Wisconsin – Madison**

Eric DeWeaver's primary research goal is to understand the dynamical nature of the large-scale atmospheric circulation and its role in the climate system. DeWeaver is interested in the fundamental mechanisms which maintain the mean circulation, as well as the processes which cause it to fluctuate and change over time. He has been looking in particular at the climate and circulation variability associated with the Arctic/North Atlantic Oscillation and the teleconnections associated with El Niño events.

DeWeaver has also begun a project intended to improve the simulation of the climate and circulation of the Arctic in global climate models. Observations and simulations suggest the Arctic is particularly sensitive to human-induced climate change, and understanding the mean Arctic climate and circulation is an important first step in anticipating Arctic climate change. In addition, he is now working to understand how climate, circulation, and hydrology are affected by global warming in simulations of human-induced climate change. His research interests include climate processes, climate change and climate variability, Arctic climate and atmospheric circulation, general circulation of the atmosphere, climate model development and assessment.

## **Jonathan V. Higgins**

**Senior Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy,  
Conservation Methods and Tools Unit, Conservation Science Division**

Jonathan Higgins is the Senior Ecologist for The Nature Conservancy, where he leads a team developing and testing new methods and tools for regional conservation planning and status measures. In addition, Higgins provides support to many of TNC's basin-level freshwater projects, including the Yangtze, Zambezi, Mississippi, Colorado, and Paraguay/Parana Rivers.

Higgins joined The Nature Conservancy in 1995 as the Aquatic Ecologist for the Great Lakes program and the Science Division to develop and apply approaches to incorporate freshwater biodiversity into their regional conservation planning efforts. From 1998 to 2003, Higgins led a team in the Conservancy's Freshwater Initiative working in partnership with government agencies, TNC field staff and other conservation NGOs in further developing and applying regional planning techniques globally. Before joining the Conservancy, he was the project manager for the water quality and biological monitoring of the Laurentian Great Lakes as a contractor to the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, where he led a team of biologists and chemists in field surveys and laboratory analyses.

While Higgins spends a significant amount of his time working internationally, he is a Midwesterner to the core. He has lived in the Chicago area for 49 years, earning his undergraduate degree at Grinnell College in Iowa, and receiving his Master of Science and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois – Chicago.



# Biographies

## **Brian J. Palik**

### **Research Ecologist, Ecology & Silviculture of the Lake States Forests Northern Research Station Education**

Brian Palik holds a doctorate in forest ecology, a master's in plant ecology, and a bachelor's in biology. He has also studied tropical ecology in Costa Rica. Palik's current research has two central themes: ecological linkages between upland forests, small streams and wetlands, and the restoration of ecological complexity in simplified forests. Both themes are addressed through the use of operational-scale management experiments designed to be statistically robust, realistic, but also novel, in terms of the treatments examined, and inclusive of a large number of response variables. Much of this work is accomplished through close collaboration with university and agency researchers from across the region.

Palik's particular research foci include questions related to plant biodiversity and community composition, tree regeneration dynamics, and above-ground productivity. Palik is interested in tradeoffs between productivity (biomass, volume) and sustainability of other ecological characteristics (e.g., native species diversity). He is also interested in developing and evaluating silvicultural and management approaches that sustain ecological complexity in forests managed for wood production. His future research includes the development/refinement of stand-scale forest dynamics models that are robust at predicting growth and yield, structural development and composition in multi-cohort, mixed species stands, among other issues.

## **John Austin**

### **Nonresident Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution**

John Austin is a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution, as well as a Michigan statewide elected official, serving as Vice President of the Michigan State Board of Education. Austin is also a lecturer at the University of Michigan School of Architecture and Urban Planning, and a Senior Fellow with the University of Michigan's School of Education – National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good. In 2007, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Austin to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact board.

Austin has over 20 years experience in political and public policy leadership. He currently is Director of the Brookings Institution's Great Lakes Economic Initiative, designed to improve the economic vitality of the Great Lakes states. Austin served as Policy Director for Michigan's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth. He co-authored the influential report *Revitalizing Michigan Cities*, with Michigan Future, Inc., which led to Governor Granholm's "Cool Cities" initiative, and has helped Michigan's Department of Labor and Economic Development to reshape Michigan's economic, workforce, and urban development agenda.

Prior to settling in Michigan, Austin served as a special assistant to Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, and on the staff of the Massachusetts Secretary of Economic Affairs. Austin is a Board Member of Michigan Common Cause, and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. He received his Master of Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College in economics & political science, Phi Beta Kappa. He and his family live in Ann Arbor.

# Biographies

## **James E. Zorn**

### **Executive Administrator, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission**

Jim Zorn is Executive Administrator of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), an agency of eleven Ojibwe tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Formed in 1984, GLIFWC exercises delegated authority to assist its member tribes in the implementation and protection of off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering rights reserved in various land cession treaties with the United States.

Prior to assuming a leadership role as GLIFWC's executive administrator, Zorn served as the agency's lead attorney/policy analyst. He has been extensively involved in the affirmation and implementation of Ojibwe-ceded territory treaty rights. Zorn has provided wide-ranging legal and policy analysis, performed in-house general counsel duties, and carried out administrative and fiscal responsibilities regarding GLIFWC's ceded territory treaty rights protection and implementation program. Zorn represents GLIFWC on various intergovernmental bodies and committees at the state, national, and international levels, including the Binational Executive Committee charged with coordinating the implementation of the binational aspects of the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the governing task force of the Binational Program to Protect and Restore Lake Superior. Prior to joining GLIFWC's staff, he served as tribal attorney for the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

Zorn was born and raised in Phillips, Wisconsin. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Wisconsin Law School. In 1982, he received a Ford Foundation Fellowship, awarded by the International Human Rights Internship Program, University of Minnesota, to work as staff attorney with the Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights in New York City. He also practiced law in Madison, Wisconsin, prior to his tenure as Lac Courte Oreilles' tribal attorney.

## **David A. Ullrich**

### **Executive Director, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative**

David Ullrich's responsibilities include working with U.S. and Canadian mayors across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin to advance the restoration and protection of the resource. The Initiative shares best practices among cities, towns, and counties so all reap benefits of the successful mutual efforts. The Initiative also works on restoration legislation, planning, and implementation.

Prior to his current position, Ullrich served for thirty years at the U.S. EPA's Great Lakes regional office in Chicago, working on environmental issues in the six state region. He worked in many capacities over the years, including Acting Regional Administrator, Deputy Regional Administrator, Waste Management Division Director, Deputy Regional Counsel, Air Enforcement Chief, and Water Enforcement Attorney. For six years, Ullrich was U.S. Chair of the Water Quality Board for the International Joint Commission, and was a founding member and chair of the Midwest Natural Resources Group. He continues to serve on the Water Quality Board, and in 2006 was appointed by the President to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Ullrich graduated from Dartmouth College in 1970 with a degree in English and received his Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1973, with an emphasis in environmental law. He is a runner and outdoor sportsman. He is married to Polly, an art critic, curator, and ceramic artist, and their son Eric, is active in a variety of competitive and recreational sports.

# Biographies

## **Dave Nomsen**

### **Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Pheasants Forever**

Dave Nomsen is currently the Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the St. Paul, Minnesota-based Pheasants Forever wildlife conservation organization. His primary area of emphasis is conservation policy and programs contained on federal farm legislation.

Nomsen also serves as a member of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and is the incoming Chairman of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners. He has a master's degree in wildlife management from South Dakota State University. Nomsen and his wife Melanie live in Garfield, Minnesota.

## **Laurie Martinson**

### **Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

Laurie Martinson is Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Her career in state government has included ten years at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, where she worked on water quality issues including permitting, budgeting, and policy work.

Martinson started at the DNR in 1999 when she was hired as the Field Operations Manager. Prior to accepting the Deputy Commissioner appointment, she served as the Trails and Waterways Director. Martinson has degrees in environmental studies and economics from Bemidji State University and a master's in public administration from Hamline University. Her interests include hiking, biking, canoeing and cross-country skiing.

## **Gretchen Bonfert**

### **Director, Environment Program, The McKnight Foundation**

Gretchen Bonfert has worked in natural resources for more than 20 years. She joined The McKnight Foundation in 2000, and in 2003 became program director. The Environment Program seeks to restore the Mississippi River in its ten-state corridor and partners with the Energy Foundation to help the Upper Midwest region provide a significant portion of the nation's renewable energy supply for electricity and transportation. This approach includes advancing cellulosic ethanol production with diverse feedstocks which provide multiple environmental benefits.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Bonfert's work involved 10 years in Illinois state government, where her positions included Assistant to the Governor for Natural Resources and Deputy Director of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. During seven years of consulting, she was the Lieutenant Governor's Illinois River Advisor in two administrations and facilitated watershed planning on two tributary rivers. She holds a bachelor's in biology and a master's in botany.

# Attractions in the Vicinity

## Shopping

- Mall of America (1 mile)  
952-883-8800
- Galleria Edina ( 7 miles)  
952-925-9534
- Southdale Center  
952-925-7890
- Southtown Shopping Center  
612-375-1077
- Albertville Premium Outlets  
763-497-1911
- Medford Outlet Center  
507-455-4111
- Tanger Factory Outlet  
800-4-TANGER
- IKEA (1 mile)

## Museums

- Bloomington Art Center  
952-563-8587
- The Minneapolis Institute of Arts  
800-38-ARTS
- Minneapolis Sculpture Garden  
612-375-7553
- Walker Art Center  
612-375-7622

## Theatre

- The Guthrie Theater  
1-877-44-STAGE
- Ordway Music Theater  
651-282-3000 \* 651-224-4222
- The Fitzgerald Theatre  
651-209-1221
- Chanhassen Dinner Theatres  
1-800-362-3515
- Historic State & Orpheum Theatres  
612-339-7007

## Sports

- Timberwolves NBA  
612-989-5151
- University of Minnesota Golden Gophers  
800-U-GOPHER
- Vikings NFL  
612-333-8828
- Wild NHL  
651-726-8240
- The Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome (9 miles)  
612-332-0386
- Target Center (9 miles)  
612-673-1311
- Xcel Energy Center Box Office (9 miles)  
651-726-8240

## History

- Historic Fort Snelling (2 miles)
- St. Paul Capital (9 miles)
- St. Paul Cathedral (7 miles)

## Other Attractions

- Science Museum of Minnesota (9 miles)  
651-221-9444
- Underwater Adventures Aquarium (1 mile)  
888-Dive-Time
- Appletree Health Club (0 miles)
- Light Rail Station (0.5 mile)
- Minnesota Zoo (5 miles)
- Minneapolis Convention Center (7 miles)
- River Center Convention Center /  
Downtown St. Paul (9 miles)
- Mystic Lake Casino (20 miles)

## Light Rail

The Hiawatha Line offers fast, quiet light-rail service to 17 stations between downtown Minneapolis and the Mall of America, including five stations at the MSP airport, in Bloomington and at the Mall of America. For route and schedule information call (612) 373-3333 or go online at [www.metrotransit.org](http://www.metrotransit.org).